

REMARKS

This Amendment is prepared in response to the non-final Office action mailed on 16 November 2006 (Paper No. 20061113). Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 through 9, 15, 21, 22 and 24 through 27 will be pending. Applicant has canceled claims 10 through 14 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter by this amendment, amended claims 1 through 4, 9 and 15 by this amendment and newly added claims 24 through 27 by this amendment.

Claim Objections

On Page 2 of Paper No. 20061113, the Examiner objected to claim 1 because of an informality. Applicant has amended claim 1 by this amendment to overcome this claim objection.

On Page 2 of Paper No. 20061113, the Examiner objected to claim 23. Applicant has canceled claim 23 by this amendment making this claim objection moot.

Prior Art Rejections

On Page 3 of Paper No. 20061113, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 21, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka (US 6,400,080). On Page 4 of Paper No. 20061113, the Examiner also rejected claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka '080 in view of Yoo (US 6,090,464). Applicant has amended independent claim 1 and has canceled independent claim 10 making these rejections moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

On Page 6 of Paper No. 20061113, the Examiner deemed that claims 8, 9 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has relied on this and has amended claim 9 to include the subject matter of claim 1 and has amended claim 15 to include the subject matter of claim 10 by this amendment to place claims 9 and 15 in condition for allowance.

Comments on Applicant's Amendments

Applicant has amended claim 1 to claim that the reinforcing rib is a straight line series of closed structures as per the fifth to the last line of Page 5 of Paper No. 20061113. Applicant submits that this claim language would not be obvious over the combination of Yoo and Tanaka as there is no teaching or suggestion in any of the applied prior art references as to why the two dimensional honeycomb structure of Yoo result in a one-dimensional series of closed structures located outside the display portion as in Applicant's claimed invention. Applicant submits that Tanaka as modified according to Yoo would result in the two dimensional structure of Yoo, not in a straight line series of closed loops as claimed by Applicant.

Applicant has also newly added claims 24 through 27 which depend from claim 1 to further embellish on Applicant's reinforcing rib. In these claims, the reinforcing rib is claimed to be of continuous closed structures, that the reinforcing rib is parallel to the display edge and to the display area, and that the reinforcing rib extends an entire length of the display area. Entry of and favorable examination are respectfully requested.

In view of the above debate, the foregoing amendment, and remarks, all claims are deemed allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. If there is any question, the Examiner is asked to contact the Applicant's attorney.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Bushnell", is written over a horizontal line.

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